

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
BUFFALO DIVISION**

TRICIA KAUFMANN,
Plaintiff,

vs.

**DIVERSIFIED COLLECTION
SERVICES; and DOES 1 through 10,
inclusive,**
Defendant.

Case No.:

**COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR
JURY TRIAL**

COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is an action for actual and statutory damages brought by Plaintiff, Tricia Kaufmann, an individual consumer, against Defendant, Diversified Collection Services, Inc., for violations of the law, including, but not limited to, violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.* (hereinafter “FDCPA”), which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive, and unfair practices.

II. JURISDICTION

2. Jurisdiction of this court arises under 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 1337. Declaratory relief is available pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202. Venue in this District is proper in that the Defendant transacts business here.

III. PARTIES

3. Plaintiff, Tricia Kaufmann, is a natural person with a permanent residence in Erie County, in the state of New York.

4. Upon information and belief, the Defendant, Diversified Collection Services, Inc. is a foreign corporation engaged in the business of collecting debt in this state and in several other states, with its principal place of business located at 333 North Canyons Parkway, Suite 100, Livermore, Alameda County, California 94551. The principal purpose of Defendant is the collection of debts in this state and several other states, and Defendant regularly attempts to collect debts alleged to be due another.
5. Defendant is engaged in the collection of debts from consumers using the mail and telephone. Defendant regularly attempts to collect consumer debts alleged to be due to another. Defendant is a “debt collector” as defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

6. The debt that Defendant is attempting to collect on is an alleged obligation of a consumer to pay money arising out of a transaction in which the money, property, insurance or services which are the subject of the transaction are primarily for personal, family, or household purposes, whether or not such obligation has been reduced to judgment.
7. Within one (1) year preceding the date of this Complaint, Defendant, in connection with the collection of the alleged debt, contacted Plaintiff and threatened to garnish Plaintiff’s wages as well as to sue her and charge her for its attorney’s fees.

8. Defendant has no standing to commence litigation or garnishment proceedings on behalf of the creditor.
9. Defendant is a debt collection company and as a debt collection company attempting to collection an alleged debt, Defendant can only refer the matter back to the creditor with a recommendation that the original creditor attempt legal proceedings which could result in garnishment.
10. The representations made to Plaintiff by Defendant regarding garnishment, litigation, and responsibility for attorney's fees were false.
11. The natural consequences of Defendant's statements and actions were to unjustly condemn and vilify Plaintiff for her non-payment of the debt she allegedly owed.
12. The natural consequences of Defendant's statements and actions were to produce an unpleasant and/or hostile situation between Defendant and Plaintiff.
13. The natural consequences of Defendant's statements and actions were to cause Plaintiff mental distress.
14. Defendant utilized unfair and unconscionable means to collect on Plaintiff's alleged debt, by lying to and misleading Plaintiff.

V. FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

15. Plaintiff repeats and realleges and incorporates by reference to the foregoing paragraphs.
16. Defendants violated the FDCPA. Defendants' violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) Defendant violated §1692d of the FDCPA by engaging in conduct the natural consequences of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any person in connection with the collection of an alleged debt; and
- (b) Defendant violated §1692e of the FDCPA by using a false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of the alleged debt; and
- (c) Defendant violated §1692e(4) of the FDCPA by giving the false representation or implication that nonpayment of the alleged debt will result in the garnishment of wages of any person when such action is unlawful and the Defendant does not intend to take such action; and
- (d) Defendant violated §1692e(5) of the FDCPA by threatening to take action that the Defendant does not intend to take and/or the Defendant cannot legally take; and
- (e) Defendant violated §1692e(10) of the FDCPA by using false representation or deceptive means in connection with the collection the alleged debt; and
- (f) Defendant violated §1692f of the FDCPA by using unfair or unconscionable means in connection with the collection of an alleged debt.

- 17. Defendant's acts as described above were done intentionally with the purpose of coercing Plaintiff to pay the alleged debt.
- 18. As a result of the foregoing violations of the FDCPA, Defendant is liable to the Plaintiff, Tricia Kaufmann, for declaratory judgment that Defendant's conduct

violated the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, and costs and attorney fees.

VI. SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

19. Plaintiff repeats and realleges and incorporates by reference to the foregoing paragraphs.
20. The acts, practices and conduct engaged in by Defendant and complained of herein constitute “deceptive acts and practices” within the meaning of Article 22A of the General Business Law of the State of New York, NY CLS GBL § 349.
21. Defendants willfully and knowingly engaged in conduct constituting deceptive acts and practices in violation of NY CLS GBL § 349.
22. Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the foregoing acts and practices, including damages associated with, among other things, humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment caused by the Defendants
23. By virtue of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to injunctive relief enjoining Defendant from the unlawful acts and practices. NY CLS GBL § 349(h).
24. By virtue of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to recover actual damages, trebled, or fifty dollars (\$50.00) whichever is greater together with reasonable attorney fees. NY CLS GBL § 349(h).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that judgment be entered against Defendant, Diversified Collection Services, for the following:

- A. Declaratory judgment that Defendant's conduct violated the FDCPA and NY CLS GBL § 349.
- B. Actual damages.
- C. Statutory damages.
- D. Costs and reasonable attorney fees.
- E. Awarding Plaintiff any pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as may be allowed under the law.
- F. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

VII. DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Please take notice that Plaintiff, Tricia Kaufmann, demands trial by jury in this action.

DATED: October 16, 2012

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
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